

**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012**

Chair Abrams called the 246th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:35 PM

- **WELCOME**

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Mary Alcock, Monica Bauer Federman, Gracia Molina de Pick, Mark Dillon, Mitz Lee, George Mitrovich, Joyce Singer Abrams, Lorena Slomanson, Joel Trambley, Patricia Washington

Leave of Absence: Tiffany Harrison is on an approved leave of absence.

Not Present: Shonee Henry, Gagandeep Kaur

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Pam Holmberg, Labor Relations

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Washington to approve the September 19, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trambley. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Dr. Bill Oswald. Dr. Oswald addressed the Commission to encourage them to work with Supportive Parents Information Network (SPIN) and help create opportunities for low-income families. He feels that poverty is often blamed on the victim rather than looking at outside causes they struggle against. He believes Government on all levels needs to make better decisions to help struggling families.

Maria Aceves. Ms. Aceves is a community member who is fighting to give low-income families and children a voice. She would like the City to take low-income families into consideration in all actions. The City Council needs to stand up for these children.

Eileen Davis. Ms. Davis is a parent advocate and spoke about families in need. The majority of low income households are in their situation through fault that is not their own. She sees the same issues today that existed 70 years ago. These are non-partisan, non-generational issues. They are universal issues that affect the community as a whole.

Margie Larson. Ms. Larson is on the SPIN Board of Directors. She spoke of the hardships on low-income families, especially to the children. She encouraged the City decision makers to consider how their decisions affect low-income families.

Kelsey Young. Ms. Young is a representative of the San Diego Childrens' Choir. Participating in the choir is a great benefit to children, teaches them skills and gives them a creative outlet. The choir is open to all children in grades 1 – 5 and there is no cost to the

student. The choir in City Heights meets for one-hour a week after school on Thursday. She encouraged all that are eligible to participate.

Reverend Nancy Mitchell – Reverend Mitchell is a child advocacy minister. She encouraged the Commission to consider how the events of growing up low-income affect a person over their lifetime. Each cut to services can affect individuals in many ways.

- **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

“Through the Eyes of Children: Lives In Poverty”

Children sharing their art work

Joni Halpern, Supportive Parents Information Network.

After a brief introduction from Joni Halpern, eight low-income students told their stories. Each student told their compelling story on how the actions of the City affect their lives. They included increased fees for transit passes, reduced hours at City libraries, fee increases for public facilities such as pools, water rate increases, lack of sports equipment at the City parks, lack of classes in arts education, field trips or after school athletic programs, the price of admission to places such as the Zoo or Sea World that receive subsidies from the City, and Police harassment of students for loitering if they are late for school. Each small decision by the City can compound the troubles of their everyday life. For example, many schools use the internet for class assignments. In City Heights 35% of the households do not have internet access at home. The City Heights library, which offers free internet access, hours have been cut to 35 hours a week, limiting the time available for students. Also, with the large demand for internet you are limited to how much time you can use it. If the library is closed or your time limit prevents a student from turning in homework or taking a test it affects their grades and puts them further behind.

SPIN member Hilda Chen asked the Commission to take a leadership role to help preserve the dreams of children in poverty. Currently one-third of San Diegan’s live in economic hardship. She asked the Commission to work with SPIN to craft a request to the Mayor and City Counsel that would require them to consider the economic impacts of their decisions on low-income families.

The Commission thanked the students for their wonderful presentation and asked many questions of them and Joni Halpern. Ms. Halpern indicated that SPIN would like to form a working group with the Commission to craft their proposal to Council and to follow through on the concerns of the students. Commissioner Mitrovich made a motion that the Commission form the working group with the goals as stated by Ms. Halpern. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bauer Federman and passed unanimously.

Hillel Project for UCSD Campus

Michael Rabkin, Hillel of San Diego

Hillel is a global network of Jewish college organizations. It has representation at all nine college campuses in San Diego County. Its goals are to create Jewish leaders for the 21st Century, inspire ethically engaged global citizens with Jewish values, foster a relationship with Israel, and promote the Jewish community. Hillel would like to build a 6475 sq foot

center next to the UCSD campus. They have been working since 1998 to develop a site on La Jolla Village Drive. There have been many battles with the neighborhood and Hillel has adapted their plans to what they feel is a facility that will suit their needs while fitting in well with the neighborhood. They plan to go forward with their plans for approval by City Council in early 2013. They brought their plans to the La Jolla CPA and it was not approved. The La Jolla CPA does not consider it a project of merit and does not accept it as a religious center. He believes La Jolla CPA has a bias against Hillel. They have also approached the La Jolla Shores PRC for approval but have not been put on the agenda yet. Mr. Rabkin asked the Commission to write a letter of support of their project to the Mayor and City Council. After questions and discussion Commissioner Washington made a motion that the Commission send a letter of support of Hillel's plan to the Mayor and City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bauer Federman. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Trambley and Executive Director Scarborough will work together to draft the letter.

Overview of Deferred action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Commissioner Lorena Slomanson

This item will be discussed at the next meeting

- ACTION AGENDA

New Business

1. Proposed changes to Municipal Code Article 6 Division 9; Human Relations Commission
The proposed changes had been sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. There were no questions about the changes. Commissioner Alcock made a motion that the Commission accept the proposed draft changes for submittal to the City Attorney's office for finalization and Council approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillon and passed unanimously.
2. Proposed protocol for Human Relations Commission media and crisis response
Commissioner Trambley discussed the proposed protocol for media and crisis response from the Human Relations Commission. The goal is to streamline the process to deliver press releases in a timely manner without compromising any of the rules of the Brown Act. Commissioner Alcock made a motion that the proposal be incorporated into the framework of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Washington and passed unanimously.
3. Plans for HRC Annual Awards Events
Executive Director Scarborough encouraged all of the Commissioners to review the packet of nominees that was distributed. There was a discussion of the awards and the nominees. Ms. Scarborough requested the Commissioners submit their votes to her via email by October 19 at 11:00 AM.

Old Business

1. Update from HRC 2012 Priority Committees
Education – Commissioner Mitz Lee, Committee Chair
Immigrant Rights – Vice Chair Mark Dillon, Committee Chair
Access Issues – Commissioner Lorena Slomanson, Committee Chair
Special Projects – Commissioner Mary Alcock, Committee Chair

Media and Communications – Joel Trambley, Committee Chair
Outreach and Advocacy – Chair Bruce Abrams, Committee Chair

Due to time constraints the reports were skipped

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

Chair's Report

1. Update Human Relations Commission Resolution on Proposition 34
The Commission's resolution was distributed for review. It will be sent to the Mayor and Council on October 18.
2. ICWJ's Annual Voices for Justice Breakfast: Thursday, December 6, 2012, 7:30 – 9:30 AM.
Chair Abrams has purchased a table for the breakfast and invited any member available to attend as his guest. He asked that those that can make it contact Executive Commissioner Scarborough

Chair Abrams announced that the NAACP is having their annual dinner, hosted by Shirley Webber, on October 20. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend if they were available.

Commissioners' Report:

There were no reports.

Executive Director's Report:

1. "Healing Our Community" – coordinating a Know Your Rights session for the City Heights Neighborhood Dialogue, October 29, 6 – 8 p.m.
Executive Director Scarborough brought attention the flyers with information on this event and encouraged the Commissioners' participation
2. Regional Hate Crimes Coalition – Educational Forum for Faith Communities, Sunday, November 4, 2012, 3:30 – 5:30, Anchor Room, Marina Village
Executive Director Scarborough encouraged the Commissioners' to participate in this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.